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FARMERVILLE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES

Defendant defrauded over \$989,000 from the victims

Monroe, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **STACEY FINLEY**, age 34, of Farmerville, Louisiana, pleaded guilty to fraud charges yesterday in United States District Court in Monroe. Sentencing for FINLEY has been scheduled for May 7, 2007.

A bill of information was filed December 8, 2006 charging FINLEY with one count of wire fraud. This case began as an investigation into allegations that FINLEY was falsely posing as an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Testimony at the guilty plea hearing revealed that FINLEY devised a scheme wherein she convinced numerous victims, who were her family, friends and neighbors, that through her contacts as an agent with the CIA, she could arrange and schedule a medical scan of the victims' bodies by satellite imaging that would detect any hidden medical problems; and that in return for payment of money to FINLEY, she would arrange for secret agents to administer medicine to the victims as they slept. All of this information that FINLEY conveyed to the victims was false. FINLEY instructed victims who lived in the local area to write

checks to pay for the scans and treatments, which she deposited into her personal account. For those victims who lived out of state, FINLEY instructed them to wire transfer money to her account for these payments. As a result of this scheme, FINLEY scammed her family, friends and neighbors out of \$989,898.57. All of the money which FINLEY received was used for her own personal benefit.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: "This defendant is a predator who preyed on basic human fears related to health. She deserves the maximum punishment allowed by law. As we all know, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true. We urge everyone to be more mindful of this old maxim, and to report these fraudsters to law enforcement authorities."

FINLEY faces a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Monroe Resident Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James G. Cowles, Jr.

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